

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An isolated antibody that binds to the SdrG fibrinogen-binding protein from coagulase-negative *Staphylococcus epidermidis*.
2. The isolated antibody according to Claim 1 wherein the protein is cell-wall associated, and binds both soluble and immobilized fibrinogen.
3. The isolated antibody according to Claim 1 wherein the antibody recognizes a protein that is cell wall-associated, exhibits cation-dependent ligand-binding and has a highly conserved motif of which the consensus sequence is TYTFTDYVD (SEQ ID NO: 16).
4. The isolated antibody according to Claim 1 which is raised against the SdrG fibrinogen-binding protein from coagulase-negative *Staphylococcus epidermidis*.
5. The isolated antibody according to Claim 1 which is raised against the A region of the SdrG fibrinogen-binding protein from coagulase-negative *Staphylococcus epidermidis*.
6. The isolated antibody according to Claim 1 wherein the SdrG fibrinogen-binding protein comprises SEQ ID NO:10.
7. The isolated antibody according to Claim 1 wherein the SdrG fibrinogen-binding protein is encoded by the nucleic acid comprising SEQ ID NO:7.
8. An isolated antibody that is reactive with the ligand binding A region of the SdrG fibrinogen-binding protein from coagulase-negative *Staphylococcus epidermidis*.
9. A diagnostic kit comprising the antibody according to Claim 1 and a means for identifying binding by said antibody.

10. Isolated antisera containing the antibody according to Claim 1.

11. A diagnostic kit comprising antibodies reactive with an SdrG protein from coagulase-negative *Staphylococcus epidermidis* which is cell-wall associated and which binds both soluble and immobilized fibrinogen.

12. A diagnostic kit comprising an antibody reactive with a protein that is cell wall-associated, exhibits cation-dependent ligand-binding and has a highly conserved motif of which the consensus sequence is TYTFTDYVD (SEQ ID NO: 16), wherein the protein is isolated from coagulase-negative *Staphylococcus epidermidis*.

13. An isolated antibody reactive with a protein that is cell wall-associated, exhibits cation-dependent ligand-binding and has a highly conserved motif of which the consensus sequence is TYTFTDYVD (SEQ ID NO: 16), wherein the protein is isolated from coagulase-negative *Staphylococcus epidermidis*.

14. An isolated antibody according to Claim 13 wherein the protein comprises the SdrG fibrinogen-binding protein isolated from coagulase-negative *Staphylococcus epidermidis*.

15. An isolated antibody according to Claim 13 wherein the protein comprises the ligand binding A region of the SdrG fibrinogen-binding protein isolated from coagulase-negative *Staphylococcus epidermidis*.